

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Literature is a creative work that contains the intent of the author. “A literary work does not mean just having an idea, a theory, or a system of thought, but in literary work contains ideas and systems of thought” (Grace, 1956.p.6). In other words a literary work contains a variety of ideas, theories, and systems of thought.

Literature is a term used to describe a spoken or written material. This term is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific work. It includes work of drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Literature is also an expression of emotion, passion, feeling of the writer towards the life, society, experience, and politic.

Oppression is the condition that happens when people are pushed down by societies or people of weak and people who are not able to resist when they are oppressed by others. In the real life people do not escape from the oppression. People who feel oppression are weak people, for example; oppression experienced by college students that are conducted by the senior etc (Deutsch, 2006: 76).

Why woman always have lower position than men? Nobody cannot explain it clearly. In the 19th century, woman and men were expected to fill separate area. Men were expected to live a public life, the can work everything they want, socializing with others men in public places, like café, bars, or club. On the other side, women were usually expected to spend their life in home, taking care of the cooking, cleaning, and child rearing. Free time for women was not supposed to be spent socializing but doing other things related to the maintenance of the family, from sewing socks to laundry.

Moreover, not all women can get formal education. People think education for women are not important.

Gradually, many women realize this unfair condition. Women made a movement to protest the inequality. They try to make resistance for breaking male domination in the world. This struggle movement came from the women superiority idea, named feminism. „Feminism“ taken from French language *feminisme*’ found by socialist philosophy Utopian Charles Fourier in nineteen century. The English term used firstly in 1980 to show women struggle in getting same chance with men (Cavallaro, 2001: 201).

Feminism, according to Michael Ryan is ideology that asks why women have played a subordinate role to men in human societies. It is concerned with how women’s live have changed throughout history, and it ask what about women experience is different from men’s, either as result of an essential ontological or psychological difference or as a result of historical imprinting and social construction (Ryan, 1997: chapter 6).

Feminism explains why woman always oppressed by man. It may be caused by many roots of woman oppression, such as Ryan said that it caused of ontological and psychological difference, social construction or other things.

Feminism and feminist movement help women to have better life in the imbalance social construction. Solve oppression in public and private social life. However, the oppression toward women not only happens in social life but also happens in literary world, like what happen in real life, in literary world women is always being object. Sugihastuti and Suharto said that in the literary work story, a man loved a woman because she was beautiful, attractive, event sensual. Man ignore other qualities that occured to the woman (Sugihastuti and Suharto: 2005,viii). It is one example of women

oppression in literary work. Men appreciate women only from their beauty and sexuality.

The phenomena of women oppression in literature has been historical problems for women. Women writer never get good respond like men in literary world. So, there are few women who become a writer. Most of great writers who have big contribution in literary world are men. That is why women never important for literary growth, so the birth of feminist literary criticism is the reaction of women oppression described in literature. Feminist literary criticism has the purpose to read and examine male domination toward female in literary world.

Feminist literary criticism is concerned with the creation of a counter of women writers excluded from the male domination in literature. It undertakes an examination of the relations between the representation of women in literature and such social and historical issues as sexuality, the family, patriarchy, and law. Mario Klarer said that feminist literary theory starts with the assumption that “gender difference” is an aspect which has been neglected in traditional literary criticism and, therefore, argues that traditional domains of literary criticism have to be re-examined from a gender-oriented perspective (Klarer,2004:91). So if gender difference is being the aspect of oppression to women in literature, feminist literary criticism wanted to show that there were two difference sexes that should have equal right.

Shirley Conran did that struggle in her novel *Crimson*; it is like the voice of women life in marriage life. Conran presented oppression to women through the women characters in *Crimson* novel. Women never have their own authority to determine their self existence in their marriage life. Women cannot transform their sexual need because of their position subordinate to men. They just like an object that being property of men. They got much

marital violence; rape, sexual abuse, verbal violence even physical violence. Women commanded to be obedient child that followed all men wanted, just like hand doll. Men as puppeteer held the important role to play women's action in their marriage life. Men have the authority, the power, and the legitimation to dominate women.

The major character in *Crimson* novel by Shirley Cornan is Elinor O'Dare, a bestselling romantic novelist. She spends her rest of life remembering the horror of her marriage life. Shirley Conran shares women life in male domination. Elinor described as obedient wife that fooled in the high and holy institution called marriage. She realizes what her husband did is something inhuman and cruel. However, she still believes that as wife she should do something to defend her marriage, anything she needs to do. She sacrifices her happiness life and exchanges it for the happiness of her man. She is influenced by many Romans reading that told about women life with charming and kind man.

The same fate happens to her three granddaughters, each of them has little bit same problem with love and power of men. Clare, the oldest one, has the problem with her sexual need, she never get climax. As property, the satisfaction of women in marriage life is not the concern; the concern is only about men satisfaction. Clare feels unhappy with her marriage because her husband ignores her sexual need. Then, she must take same big decision when her husband went to bed with another woman. Actually, she does not want apologize her husband. Elinor as grandmother advices Clare to do like what she did, sacrifice her happiness and forgive her husband. Elinor has ever felt the unfaithfulness of her husband, but by the name of love and family happiness, she has to forgive her husband. Elinor wants Clare to do what she has done to save their marriage. Other major characters are Annabel, the second granddaughter, and Miranda, the youngest, they also have little bit

same problem with their men. However, the focus of this study is only to the life of Elinor and Clare.

B. Previous Study

Based on the literature review conducted, researchers have not found studies that make novel *Crimson* as a material object, but there are few studies using object oppression on women and Feminist theory. Studies that have been done include are *Oppression on Women as Portrayed in "Celia, A Slave"* and *"Woman At Point Zero": A Comparative Literature*". This thesis contains a study of comparative literature which involves two novels of different nations with similar motifs, which are women oppression.

The next research is *Oppression Against Women in Margaret Eleanor Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale (1985) Novel: A Feminist Criticism*. And a research by Devica Hilara Pingkan from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2017. The title is *Motherhood Reflected in Veronica Roth's Divergen Novel (2011): A Feminist Perspective*.

A research by Aprilia Aldear Rusharyani from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2017 with title *The Aspect of Lesbianism of Celie in Alice Walker Novel The Color Purple (1982): A Feminist Approach*. The research is about how is Celie's character depicted in the novel and problem is how feminism is portrayed through the main character, Celie, in the novel.

C. Problem Statement

After conducting the background of the study, the writer formulates statement of the problems as follows:

1. What is oppression to women major characters described in Shirley Conran's *Crimson*?
2. What are the reactions of women major characters toward their oppression in Shirley Conran's *Crimson*?

D. Objectives

Based on statement of the problems, therefore, the aims of the study are:

1. To find oppression to women major characters in Shirley Conran's *Crimson*.
2. To describe the reaction of women major characters toward their oppression in Shirley Conran's *Crimson*.

E. Limitation of Study

The researcher focuses in analyzing woman oppression in Conran's Novel *Crimson* (1992)

F. Benefits

From this paper, the researcher hope will enrich the knowledge about literary work especially novel. Hopefully; the readers can get better understanding about intrinsic elements and also can help readers in getting better knowledge about how to deal with intrinsic elements in a novel.

G. Paper of Organization

The research paper of "Oppression to Women in Shirley Conran's Novel *Crimson* (1992): A Feminist Literary Criticism" is divided in six chapters. Chapter one is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study and Paper Organization. Chapter two is Literature Review. It consists of Underlying Theory, Previous Study and Theoretical Application. Chapter three is Research Method. It consists of Type of the Study, Object of the Study, Type of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of Data Collection, Technique of Data Analysis. Chapter four is Structural Analysis that consist of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Theme, and Discussion. Chapter five is Feminist Analysis and Discussion.

Chapter six is Conclusion and Suggestion that consist of Conclusion, suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.